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IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a molecule which inhibits protein degradation in cells mediated by elongin C, comprising subjecting candidate molecules to an assay which detects the interaction between a SOCS box and elongin C wherein said SOCS box comprises the sequence, ~~(T,S,P)LXXX(C,S)XXZX(LIV)~~ (T,S,P)LXXX(C,S)XXX(LIV) (SEQ ID NO:4), and selecting the molecule which inhibits said interaction wherein the selected molecule is a molecule which inhibits protein degradation in cells mediated by elongin C.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a molecule which promotes protein degradation in cells mediated by elongin C, comprising subjecting candidate molecules to an assay which detects the interaction between a SOCS box and elongin C wherein said SOCS box comprises the sequence, ~~, (T,S,P)LXXX(C,S)XXZX(LIV)~~ (T,S,P)LXXX(C,S)XXX(LIV) (SEQ ID NO:4), and selecting the molecule which promotes said interaction wherein the selected molecule is a molecule which promotes protein degradation in cells mediated by elongin C.

24-25. (Canceled)